

## **GRADE 7**

### **SUMMER READING LIST**

Students entering Grade 7 will be expected to choose one book from the Karen Hesse author study and at least two books from the Choice List.

#### **Author Study – Karen Hesse (Choose one)**

The Music of Dolphins by Karen Hesse - EASY

Dolphins have raised Mila, the main character. When the Coast Guard discovers her, she is taken to a research facility and has to adjust to living with humans. She slowly acquires language and develops a love for music. Her love for music gives her insight into the human world yet allows her to remain connected to her dolphin world.

Phoenix Rising by Karen Hesse - AVERAGE

Nyle's life with her grandmother on their Vermont sheep farm advances rhythmically through the seasons until the night of the accident at the Cookshire nuclear power plant. Without warning, Nyle's modest world fills with protective masks, evacuations, contaminated food, disruptions, and mistrust.

Stowaway by Karen Hesse- CHALLENGING

Newbery winner Karen Hesse re-creates Cook's momentous voyage through the eyes of this remarkable boy, creating a fictional journal filled with fierce hurricanes, warring natives, and disease, as Nick discovers new lands, incredible creatures, and lifelong friends.

Choose **TWO** books from the following list:

#### **Fantasy**

The Subtle Knife by Phillip Pullman, *His Dark Materials Book 2* - CHALLENGING

Sequel to: The Golden Compass. As the boundaries between worlds begin to dissolve, Lyra and her daemon help Will Parry in his search for his father and for a powerful, magical knife.

The Tale of Despereaux : being the story of a mouse, a princess, some soup, and a spool of thread by Kate DiCamillo – AVERAGE

The adventures of Despereaux Tilling, a small mouse of unusual talents, the princess that he loves, the servant girl who longs to be a princess, and a devious rat determined to bring them all to ruin.

Zel by Donna Jo Napoli - CHALLENGING

An innocent young girl...a noble youth obsessed with her beauty... and a mother who will do anything to keep them apart.

#### **Science Fiction**

Fantastic Voyage, by Isaac Asimov - EASY

A story about five people shrinking down and going into a scientist's body. They try to destroy a blood clot in the scientist's brain with a laser. Throughout the entire book the team uncovers many problems that they must face to complete the mission. The team has only 60 minutes to get to the clot and destroy it, and get out of the body.

Running Out of Time by Margaret P. Haddix – EASY

What if the costumed workers at historical sites really lived there, and tourists watched them through hidden cameras rather than from pathways? What if those workers and families were not allowed to leave, ever? Jessie lives in the 1840s, or so she believes until her mother sends her on an escape mission outside the fence, where it's 1996.

### **Fiction**

Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson - EASY

The story starts out simply enough: Jess Aarons wants to be the fastest boy in the fifth grade--he wants it so bad he can taste it. He's been practicing all summer, running in the fields around his farmhouse until he collapses in a sweat. Then a tomboy named Leslie Burke moves into the farmhouse next door and changes his life forever.

Crazy Lady by J. Conly – AVERAGE

In this story, a boy comes to understand his own life through his relationship with Maxine and her special son.

Hoops by Walter Dean - AVERAGE

A former professional player who, after being forced to quit because of a point shaving scandal, hopes to prevent other young athletes from repeating his mistake befriends a teenage basketball player from Harlem.

Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinelli - EASY

He wasn't born with the name Maniac Magee. He came into this world named Jeffrey Lionel Magee, but when his parents died and his life changed, so did his name. And Maniac Magee became a legend. But the thing Maniac Magee is best known for is what he did for the kids from the East Side and those from the West Side.

The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton – AVERAGE

According to Ponyboy, there are two kinds of people in the world: greasers and socs. A soc (short for "social") has money, can get away with just about anything, and has an attitude longer than a limousine. A greaser, on the other hand, always lives on the outside and needs to watch his back.

The Pigman by Zindel - AVERAGE

When sophomores John and Lorraine played a practical joke a few months ago on a stranger named Angelo Pignati, they had no idea what they were starting. Virtually overnight, almost against their will, the two befriended the lonely old man.

Tangerine by Bloor - AVERAGE

So what if he's legally blind? Even with his bottle-thick, bug-eyed glasses, Paul Fisher can see better than most people. He can see the lies his parents and brother live out, day after day. No one ever listens to Paul, though--until the family moves to Tangerine.

Wrinker by Jerry Spinelli – AVERAGE

Palmer dreads turning ten because he does not want to become a "wrinker" at Family Fest. After great personal struggle, Palmer stops being afraid and stands up for what he believes in.

## **Historical Fiction**

Brady by Jean Fritz - EASY

Brady has never been trusted with secrets, until now. When he discovers an Underground Railroad station near his family's farm, he is forced to make his own decision about the slavery controversy. Whatever his decision may be he knows that this is one secret that must be kept.

Daughter of Venice by Donna Jo Napoli - AVERAGE

A historical novel about a young woman who longs to experience the wide world beyond her cloistered window. The year is 1592, and 14-year-old Donata is a pampered member of the noble Mocenigo family. But Donata is restless.

The Last Silk Dress by Ann Rinaldi - CHALLENGING

The themes of loyalty to friends, family, country and one's beliefs are an integral part of this Civil War story. Susan, 14, of Richmond, helps the Southern cause by sewing and nursing the wounded, missing her father and trying not to rile her "half-mad" mother, who beats her and calls her a Yankee brat.

The Secret of Sarah Revere by Ann Rinaldi - CHALLENGING

Thirteen-year-old Sarah Revere knows her father is a hero. But she also knows that Paul Revere guards a secret about the start of the Revolutionary War that he'll tell no one--not his new wife, not his best friend, not even his trusted daughter. It seems *everyone* in her family has secrets. Sarah's even got one--and it's tearing her apart.

The Slave Dancer by Paula Fox - CHALLENGING

Snatched from the docks of New Orleans, thirteen-year-old Jessie is thrown aboard a slave ship where he must play his life so that captured slaves will "dance," to keep their muscles strong and their bodies profitable for their owners' use.

## **Coming of Age – Fiction**

The Princess Diaries by Meg Cabot (Five Volumes... can read any) - AVERAGE

Fourteen-year-old Mia, who is trying to lead a normal life as a teenage girl in New York City, is shocked to learn that her father is the Prince of Genovia, a small European principality, and that she is a princess and the heir to the throne.

Stones in Water by Donna Jo Napoli CHALLENGING

After being taken by German soldiers from a local movie theater along with other Italian boys including his Jewish friend, Roberto is forced to work in Germany, escapes into the Ukrainian winter, before desperately trying to make his way back home to Venice.

The Thief Lord by Cornelia Funke AVERAGE

This suspenseful tale begins in a detective's office in Venice, as the entirely unpleasant Hartliebs request Victor Getz's services to search for two boys, Prosper and Bo, the sons of Esther Hartlieb's recently deceased sister. Twelve-year-old Prosper and 5-year-old Bo ran away when their aunt decided she wanted to adopt Bo, but not his brother.

The Mozart Season by Virginia E. Wolff AVERAGE

Allegra spends her twelfth summer practicing a Mozart concerto for a violin competition and finding many significant connections in her world.

### **Mystery**

The Sally Lockhart Trilogy: The Ruby in the Smoke, The Shadow in the North, The Tiger in the Well by Phillip Pullman - CHALLENGING

"Her name was Sally Lockhart; and within fifteen minutes, she was going to kill a man." Philip Pullman begins his Sally Lockhart trilogy with a bang in *The Ruby in the Smoke*--a fast-paced, finely crafted thriller set in a rogue- and scalawag-ridden Victorian London. His 16-year-old heroine has no time for the usual trials of adolescence: her father has been murdered, and she needs to find out how and why.

The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin- AVERAGE

This highly inventive mystery involves sixteen people who are invited to the reading of Samuel W. Westing's will. They could become millionaires-it all depends on how they play the tricky and dangerous Westing game, a game involving blizzards, burglaries, and bombings!

### **Non-Fiction (Not leveled)**

Black Diamond: The Story of the Negro Baseball Leagues by Patricia McKissack  
Traces the history of baseball in the Negro Leagues and its great heroes, including Monte Irwin, Buck Leonard, and Cool Papa Bell.

Black Potatoes by Susan Campbell Bartoletti

A compelling story of men, women, and children who defied landlords and searched empty fields for scraps of harvested vegetables and edible weeds to eat, who walked several miles each day to hard-labor jobs for meager wages and to reach soup kitchens, and who committed crimes just to be sent to jail, where they were assured of a meal. It's the story of children and adults who suffered from starvation, disease, and the loss of family and friends, as well as those who died.

Let it shine: Stories of Black Women Freedom Fighters by Andrea Davis Pinkney  
Rosa Parks. Harriet Tubman. Shirley Chisholm. The lives these women led are part of an incredible story about courage in the face of oppression; about the challenges and triumphs of the battle for civil rights; and about speaking out for what you believe in--even when it feels like no one is listening.

Tell them We Remember: the Story of the Holocaust by Susan Bachrach

Bachrach makes the victims of Hitler's cruelty immediate to readers, showing that, like readers, they were individuals with hobbies and desires, friends and family.

Why do Buses come in Threes? The Hidden Mathematics in Everyday Life by Robert Eastaway

Why is it better to buy a lottery ticket on a Friday? Is bad luck just chance, or can it be explained? Is it possible to win every time without cheating? And can math greatly increase your odds of getting a date and even falling in love? If you've had the sneaking suspicion ever since the third grade that math is conspiring against you—you're right.

**Biography**

Lincoln: A Photobiography by Russell Freedman

A complete and enjoyable book about one of the nation's most fascinating and important figures, Abraham Lincoln. Russell Freedman covers Lincoln's life and career in a balanced treatment that is enhanced by period photographs and drawings.

**Autobiography**

Zlata's Diary: A Child's Life in Sarajevo by Zlata Filipovic

From September 1991 through October 1993, young Zlata Filipovic kept a diary. When she began it, she was 11 years old, concerned mostly with friends, school, piano lessons, MTV, and Madonna. As the diary ends, she has become used to constant bombing and snipers; severe shortages of food, water, and gas; and the end of a privileged adolescence in her native Sarajevo.

Within Reach: My Everest Story by Mark Pfetzer

In May, 1996 the media scrambled to document the gripping and inspirational story of sixteen-year-old Mark Pfetzer's expedition to Mount Everest. Not only was he the youngest climber ever to attempt the summit, but he bore witness to the tragedy documented in Jon Krakauer's Into Thin Air, in which eight climbers perished in a sudden storm.